AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for the amplification of nucleic acid fragments from a sample, wherein said nucleic acid fragments are between 100 and 1000 base pairs in length, said method comprising first and second thermocyclic amplification reactions, wherein said first amplification reaction is carried out using completely randomized primers, said second amplification reaction is carried out using specific primers, and said first and second amplification reactions are carried out using the same mixture of at least two DNA polymerases, at least one of which possesses 3'-5' exonuclease activity.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said mixture of DNA polymerases comprises a DNA polymerase without 3'-5' exonuclease activity and a DNA polymerase with 3'-5' exonuclease activity.

4. (Previously amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein the sample comprises a pool of cDNAs.

5. (Previously added) The method of Claim 3, wherein said mixture of DNA polymerases comprises *Taq* DNA polymerase and *Pwo* DNA polymerase.

6. (Previously added) The method of Claim 3, wherein said sample is a sample of cells.

7. (Previously added) The method of Claim 6, further comprising treating said sample of cells with a protease, prior to the two thermocyclic amplification reactions.

8. (Previously added) The method of Claim 7, wherein said protease is proteinase K.

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9. (Currently amended) A method for ~~amplifying~~ the amplification of nucleic acid fragments from a sample comprising nucleic acid, wherein said nucleic acid fragments are between 100 and 1000 base pairs in length, said method comprising two thermocyclic amplification reactions, wherein a first amplification reaction is carried out using completely randomized primers and a second amplification reaction is carried out using specific primers, and in said first amplification reaction, the temperature at which primer extension is carried out is increased in at least some of the successive amplification cycles, and said first and second amplification reactions are carried out using the same mixture of at least two DNA polymerases, at least one of which possesses 3'-5' exonuclease activity.

10 (Previously added) The method of Claim 9, wherein the at least two DNA polymerases are thermostable DNA polymerases.

11. (Previously added) The method of Claim 9, wherein said mixture of DNA polymerases comprises a DNA polymerase without 3'-5' exonuclease activity and a DNA polymerase with 3'-5' exonuclease activity.

12. (Previously added) The method of Claim 9 wherein the sample comprises a pool of cDNAs.

13. (Previously added) The method of Claim 9, wherein said mixture of DNA polymerases comprises *Taq* DNA polymerase and *Pwo* DNA polymerase.

14. (Previously added) The method of Claim 9, wherein said sample is a sample of cells.

15. (Previously added) The method of Claim 14, further comprising treating said sample of cells with a protease, prior to the two thermocyclic amplification reactions.

16. (Previously added) The method of Claim 15, wherein said protease is proteinase K.

17. (Previously added) The method of Claim 1, wherein the at least two DNA polymerases are thermostable DNA polymerases.

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